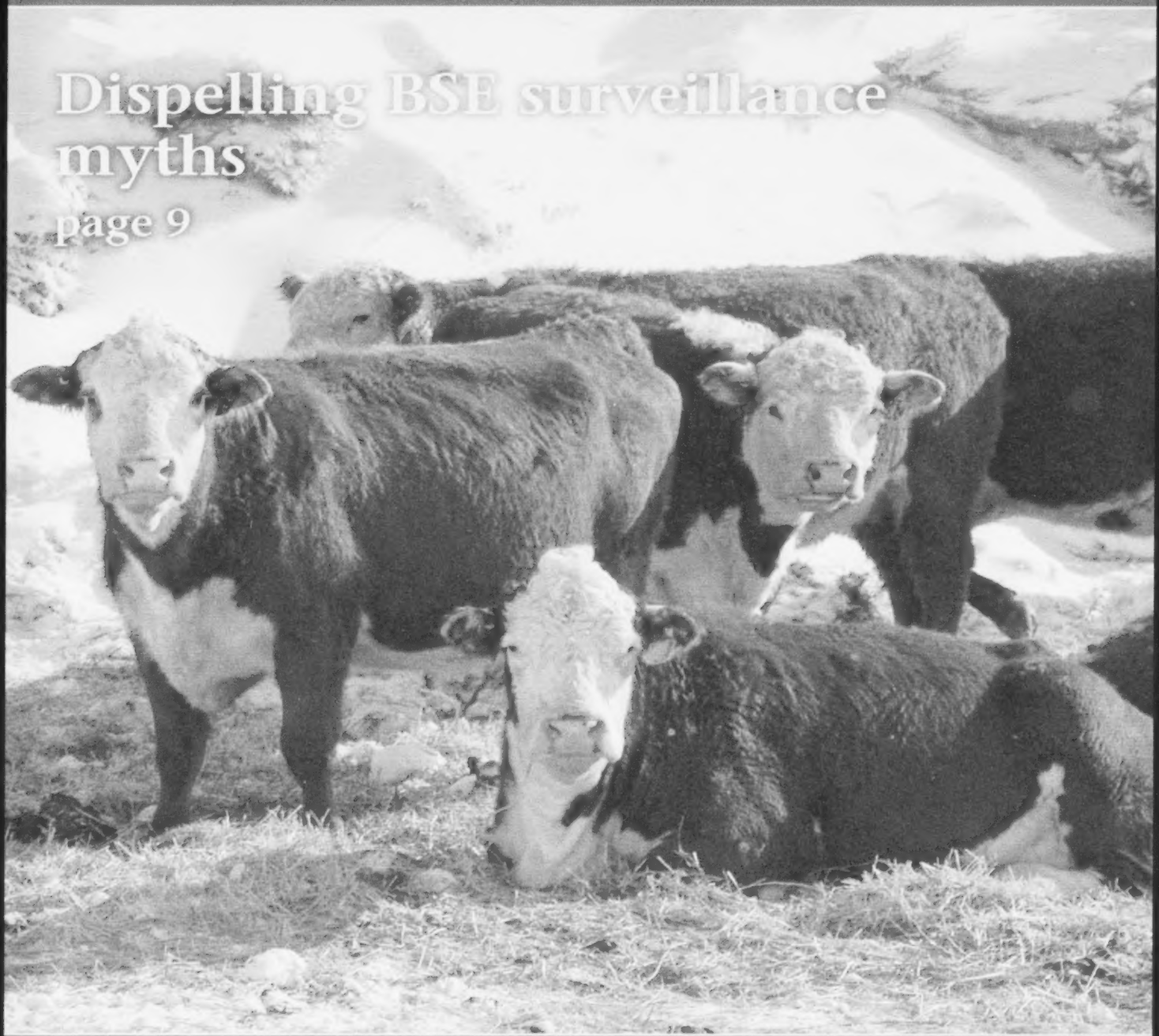
ISSUE 09

AGRIVIEW

FEBRUARY 2013 VOLUME 8



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Government of Saskatchewan
Ministry of Agriculture

Minister's Message

With a new year comes new resolutions, new projects for the future and new opportunities, especially in Saskatchewan. We are fortunate to live in a "have" province where agriculture plays such an important role. Agriculture will have even greater importance moving forward as we invest in the future of the industry and in the future innovators of agriculture: today's youth.

The Saskatchewan Plan for Growth set out a goal for Saskatchewan's population to reach 1.2 million people by 2020. With our population increasing, our economy is strong and our overall quality of life is reaching new heights. Saskatchewan has a plan to pursue this growth in a sustainable manner that will include progress and opportunity in agriculture. We will increase crop production by 10 million tonnes and agricultural exports by $5 billion. Saskatchewan will also become a leader in life sciences, food production, food security and food innovation.

The Saskatchewan vision for the future is founded on today's strong agriculture industry. From fields and labs to agribusiness, agriculture holds many opportunities for the next generation. Saskatchewan farm income has grown to $2.85 billion this past year, accounting for half of Canadian farm income and surpassing our own five-year average by 125 per cent. Agricultural exports also broke new ground in 2011, surpassing $10 billion for the first time in history.

Unique research institutions in our province are developing new crop and forage varieties, diagnostic and vaccination tools for livestock diseases and new technological innovations. Saskatchewan truly is the place to be for quality agricultural jobs from the farm gate to our research institutions and beyond. All of these agricultural jobs contribute to the provincial economy and to the Saskatchewan way of life.

The youth of Saskatchewan are the future of our agriculture industry. We are encouraged to see the University of Saskatchewan's College of Agriculture and Bioresources have the highest rate of enrolment into agriculture programs in recent history. With the Ministry's Student Scholarship Program, the announcement of the Global Institute for Food Security and other innovative programs in the province, Saskatchewan is preparing for the future.

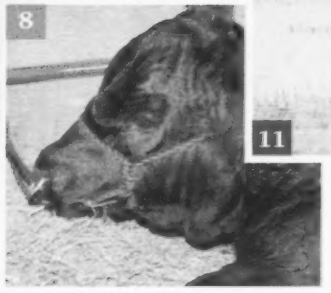
Agriculture in Saskatchewan is part of our past, present and future. Our province's history is closely linked with agriculture. Today, agriculture continues to be one of our strengths and in the future, I hope agriculture will be our legacy.

Sincerely,

Lyle Stewart

STORY SNAPSHOTS

Crop Opportunity update



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Cover: Cattle congregating south of Regina, SK.

Government of Saskatchewan
Ministry of Agriculture

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To view this publication online, visit www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/programs-services.

The cutting edge in forage management: bringing research to the farm

by Sarah Sommerfeld, PAg
Regional Forage Specialist, Outlook
Regional Services Branch

Saskatchewan Agriculture Regional Forage Specialists, in partnership with the Saskatchewan Forage Council, are working together to present three, one-day seminars focused on providing research updates and information extension. These events will also provide information for producers, specialists and professionals looking to increase their knowledge of forage management and improve farm productivity and profitability.

"The Cutting Edge in Forage Management: Bringing Research to the Farm" will be held in North Battleford on March 12, 2013, in Moose Jaw on March 13, 2013 and in Yorkton on March 14, 2013. The agenda will feature speakers from Saskatchewan Agriculture, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, University of Alberta, University of Saskatchewan, Western Beef Development Centre, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Manitoba Agriculture and Food and Rural Initiatives. Topics to be discussed will include year-round grazing management, forage legumes, forages in short rotation, forage fertility, Canada thistle control, climate change impact on grasslands and Agricultural Demonstration of Practices and Technologies (ADOPT) forage project highlights and outcomes.

The seminars will begin at 9:30 a.m. each day and end at 4 p.m. Cost to attend is $40 per producer or $60 if registering a second producer from the same operation. Producers are encouraged to pre-register, and can do so by contacting the Saskatchewan Forage Council at (306) 969-2666 or email office@saskforage.ca.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact John Hauer, Regional Forage Specialist, Kindersley at (306) 463-5507 or john.hauer@gov.sk.ca; or
- Contact Nadia Mori, Regional Forage Specialist, Watrous at (306) 946-3219 or nadia.mori@gov.sk.ca; or
- Contact Sarah Sommerfeld, Regional Forage Specialist, Outlook at (306) 867-5559 or sarah.sommerfeld@gov.sk.ca.

Polymer coated urea slowly releases nitrogen to meet the crop demand.

IS YOUR SEED UP TO THE JOB FOR 2013?

by John Ippolito, PAg
Regional Crops Specialist, Kindersley
Regional Services Branch

Seed quality is normally defined in terms of germination, vigour, genetic purity, and the number and type of weed seeds. Seed borne diseases are of increasing importance as they are either a means of introducing crop diseases to a field or increasing risk of seedling blights that may reduce plant populations.

Harvest conditions in 2012, were good which means that we will not see issues arising from frost or sprouting impacting seed quality. The big issue for seed grown in 2012 production is the level of seed borne diseases. The main disease being encountered is *Fusarium* and there may be a couple of different species involved. This is important to note as the management practices implemented may change based on the species found and levels that are present.

Until 2010, *Fusarium graminearum* was felt to be isolated to Manitoba and eastern Saskatchewan. Due to favourable weather conditions in the past couple of years it has become much more widespread. If your area has not experienced infection from this species it is recommended to use seed that is free of this species to avoid introduction to your area.

Seed infected with less than five per cent *F. graminearum* can be planted back into regions where this species is established. Using a seed treatment is advised if *F. graminearum* is present at levels greater than two per cent. Seed infected with greater than five per cent *F. graminearum* may have other quality problems and is a risk to plant.

If there is less than five per cent[1] total *Fusarium* species infection on the seed it should be safe to plant this seed (if it does not also include *F. graminearum*).

However, a level of five per cent total *Fusarium* infection could still result in significant seedling blight if a seed treatment is not used. Only use seed with high levels of *Fusarium* infection if it also has high germination levels.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- about seed quality, refer to Guidelines for Seed Borne Diseases in Cereals and Guidelines for Seed Borne Diseases in Pulse Crops; or
- Visit a Regional Crops Specialist near you; or
- Visit www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca.

[1] The 5% value is given as a conservative rule of thumb and is not based on research. This value may vary depending on what risk is acceptable to the grower (e.g. caution is advised if producing breeder or select seed, or if an organic grower).

Seed testing labs in Saskatchewan

by Lyndon Hicks, PAg
Regional Crops Specialist, Yorkton
Regional Services Branch

One of the most important things a farmer can do heading into spring is to ensure that the seed they are planning to use is of good quality. Using good quality seed gives farmers the best chance of establishing a sufficient and vigorous crop stand, which is the first step towards a profitable crop.

Seed testing not only gives you germination and vigour information, but can also provide seed borne disease levels which will help you determine if seed treatment is required to control those diseases. Sometimes, if the seed borne disease level is too high, alternative seed sources should be found. A seed test can also provide a thousand kernel weight to assist in calculating seeding rates.

Here is a listing of all seed labs in Saskatchewan where farmers can send samples to be checked.

Ag Seed Lab **PO Box 998** **Carrot River SK S0E 0L0** **Phone: (306) 768-3335**
BDS Laboratories **PO Box 363** **Qu'Appelle SK S0G 4A0** **Phone: (306) 699-2679 or 1-888-237-5227**
Discovery Seeds Labs Ltd. **450 Melville Street** **Saskatoon SK S7J 4M2** **Phone: (306) 249-4484**
Lendon Seeds Ltd. **147 Hodsman Road** **Regina SK S4N 5W5** **Phone: (306) 585-7333**
Parkland Laboratories **143 - 11th Avenue West** **Melville SK S0A 2P0** **Phone: (306) 728-3705**
Prairie Diagnostic Seed Lab Inc. **1105 Railway Avenue** **Weyburn SK S4H 3H5** **Phone: (306) 842-7375**
Seed Solutions Seed Labs **PO Box 1420** **Swift Current SK S9H 3G6** **Phone: (306) 741-9309**

With the high disease levels farmers experienced in the 2012 growing season, it is important that farmers test their seed before seeding in 2013. Seed testing is another important tool producers should consider to help minimize risk and plan for the upcoming crop season.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit the Saskatchewan Agriculture website at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca and search 'seed testing';
- Contact your Regional Crops Specialist; or
- Call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

CONTROLLING GRAIN STORAGE INSECTS DURING WINTER

by Brent Flaten, PAg, CCA
Integrated Pest Management Specialist
Regional Services Branch

Stored grain should always be monitored for grain insects, but extra vigilance is needed this year because this year producers were harvesting grain during hot weather.

It is important to correctly identify any insects found in stored grain in order to determine the proper control measures. Grain-feeders include: rusty grain beetles, red flour beetles and saw-toothed grain beetles. Fungus-feeders include: foreign grain beetles, grain mites and psocids (book lice). Fungus-feeders cannot survive in dry grain, so drying the grain sufficiently is all that is required to control them.

Foreign grain beetles are often confused with rusty grain beetles. An easy way to tell the difference is to put the insects in a glass jar. Foreign grain beetles can climb up the glass, while rusty grain beetles cannot.

Control Measures

During the winter there is an unique opportunity to kill insects by freezing them.

Time Required to Kill Insects at Various Grain Temperatures

Grain Temperature	Time required to kill insects
-5C	12 weeks
-10C	eight weeks
-15C	four weeks
-20C	one week

During the winter, grain temperature has to be above 5C to 10C in order to use malathion, diatomaceous earth or phostoxin since grain insects need to be active for these products to work. Do not apply malathion to unregistered grains such as canola or flax since this will jeopardize your ability to sell these crops. Do not store canola in bins that have been treated with malathion within the previous six months. Only a licensed pesticide applicator with a valid fumigation license is permitted to apply phostoxin. Whenever using any of these products, follow the label instructions, only apply to registered crops and check with grain buyers for any preferred treatments, such as with milling oats or malt barley.

Some grain vacuums can be quite effective in controlling grain beetles. Research has shown this method works best when small volumes of grain, around 150 bushels per hour, are run through grain vacuums that have 90-degree corners in the delivery system. Less grain in the system means less cushioning of insects at the corners.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact your local regional crop specialist or the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377; or
- Visit the Saskatchewan Agriculture website at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca.

Upcoming workshops: Soils and Crops 2013

by Patrick Mooleki, PhD, PAg
Soil/Nutrient Management Specialist
Agriculture Knowledge Centre

The annual Soils and Crops Workshop will be held on March 5 and 6, 2013 at Prairieland Park in Saskatoon.

Soils and Crops presentations will be held on the first day, featuring current research in the areas of soil and water, crop management, fertility, pest management and environment. New this year, the Department of Plant Sciences, University of Saskatchewan, will be presenting their undergraduate thesis in a third concurrent session. The day will end with a Poster Session featuring research results from Western Canada. Time will be allocated to view the posters on the second day as well.

The second day of the workshop will provide an in-depth training opportunity on **Canola Agronomy**. Attendees will get first-hand results of the studies conducted under the Growing Forward Canola Cluster program. Topics such as producer and pest surveys, canola establishment, disease and insect management, weed control, enhanced phosphorus efficiency and storage management will be discussed. There will also be special focus on aster yellows, blackleg and determination of soil moisture using NASA technology.

This event is a great opportunity for professional development, networking and extension of current soils and crops research to Certified Crop Advisors, Certified Crop Science Consultants, Professional Agrologists, researchers, students, producers and others in the agriculture industry.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

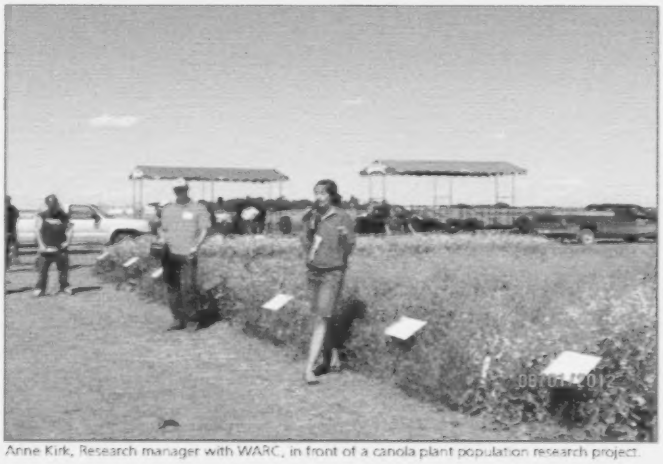
- and for registration, call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377; or
- Visit the University of Saskatchewan at www.usask.ca/soilsandcrops.

CROP OPPORTUNITY AND SCOTT RESEARCH UPDATE

by Sherrilyn Phelps, M.Sc., PAg, CCA
Regional Crops Specialist, North Battleford
Regional Services Branch

On Thursday, March 7, 2013, the Western Applied Research Corporation (WARC), in partnership with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and SaskCanola, will hold the annual Crop Opportunity and Scott Research Update. This event will provide opportunities for agrologists, certified crop advisors, industry representatives, producers and researchers to discuss the latest information and technology related to crop production.

The event will include a showcase of the latest research and demonstration results from WARC. Projects to be discussed include: integrated weed control in lentil, pea inputs and inoculants, canola plant populations and saline tolerant forages. Regional Crops Specialists will be presenting a summary on crop production in northwest Saskatchewan in 2012 and what issues producers should be concerned with for 2013.



Anne Kirk, Research manager with WARC, in front of a canola plant population research project.

Additionally, Dr. Randy Kutcher, pathologist with the University of Saskatchewan, will focus on cereal disease management and Eric Johnson, weed biologist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) at Scott, will provide the latest information on glyphosate resistance in weeds. Farm management topics for the day will include managing variable rate technology, knowing your management risks, global market outlook and marketing tools. Lastly, we are pleased to announce that Drew Lerner from World Weather Incorporated will be discussing the prairie weather and what we can expect for the future.

This all-day event will begin with registration at 8 a.m. at the Dekker Centre in North Battleford.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- or to register, call the North Battleford Regional Office at (306) 446-7964; or
- Visit www.warc.ca.

SaskCanola
Saskatchewan Canola Development Commission

Western Applied Research Coporation

Pea leaf weevil survey 2012

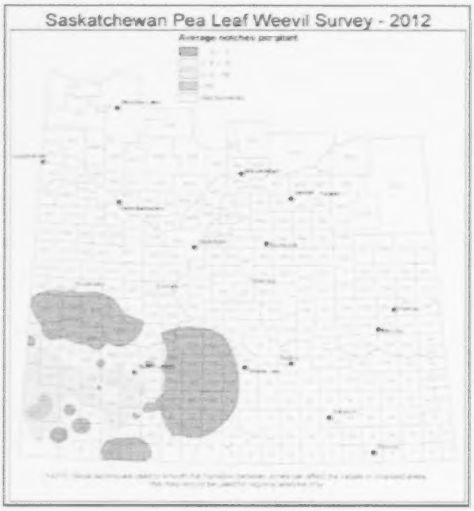
by Scott Hartley, PAg
Provincial Specialist, Insect and Vertebrate Pests
Crops Branch
and

by Shannon Chant, MSc., PAg
Regional Crops Specialist, Swift Current
Regional Services Branch

A survey for pea leaf weevil in Saskatchewan indicates higher levels compared to the previous two years.

During the survey the fields observed with the most severe infestations were near Maple Creek (RM 111). Higher damage levels were also identified to the west and south of Swift Current. However, damage was noted in pea fields at varying levels across the southwest, from the Alberta border and farther to the east near Mortlach and Limerick. Damage from the weevil was also detected just north of the South Saskatchewan River in the Kinderlsey area.

The pea leaf weevil feeds at night and hides in cracks in the soil during the day. The survey was conducted in June when weevils are actively feeding. Because the adults are hard to find in daytime, the survey is based on the number of feeding notches on pea plants at various locations in a field. Scalloped or notched leaf margins are typical of the damage caused by the adults chewing on the pea plants.



Although adults feed on the leaves of seedling peas, this is generally not a serious economic concern, unless seedlings are small or if infestations are heavy. Healthy plants can usually tolerate and outgrow the damage. The most serious damage to the crop is likely due to the larval feeding on nitrogen fixing nodules on the roots of the plants.

Control for this beetle can be through a seed treatment containing an insecticide, or with a foliar insecticide. Seed treatments may not be cost effective unless there was damage in the previous year, but tend to be more effective than foliar applications. If damage is noted and no seed treatment was used, the current threshold for insecticide application is one notch on the clam leaves per three plants prior to the sixth node stage of crop growth.

Damage may be more intense around field margins, due to invading weevils, and is often variable from field to field.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Refer to the current edition of the Saskatchewan Agriculture publication Guide to Crop Protection for registered control products.

THE 2013 SASKATCHEWAN GRASSHOPPER FORECAST

by Scott Hartley
Provincial Specialist, Insect and Vertebrate Pests
Crops Branch

The 2013 Grasshopper Forecast Map indicates low risk from this insect pest for most areas of Saskatchewan during the upcoming growing season.

The wet and cool climatic conditions in Saskatchewan for a second consecutive spring in most regions were not favourable for development of grasshopper populations. However grasshoppers that hatched and survived would have benefitted from the increased temperatures in June accompanied by drier conditions that continued into September.

Although the grasshopper risk map shows relatively low risk for Saskatchewan there are some areas of higher risk, primarily for the West Central and Southwest regions.

The 2013 forecast map is based on adult grasshopper populations observed in August and September at more than 1,000 sites. The intention of the survey is to estimate the number of mature grasshoppers capable of reproduction and egg-laying prior to winter. This information is used to estimate the number of grasshopper eggs that will survive the winter to hatch next spring and be of potential risk to crops in 2013. The 2012 fall survey was conducted by Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation personnel.

The actual severity of grasshopper infestations in 2013 will depend largely on weather conditions in the spring. Hot and dry conditions will favour the growth and development of grasshoppers.

Growers should monitor for young grasshoppers in susceptible crops in the spring and early summer. In some crops such as lentil, flowering and pod development stages are especially vulnerable to grasshopper feeding. Therefore in lentils there is the potential for economic damage with only two grasshoppers per square metre. Similarly in flax, at the green boll stage, control is recommended at two grasshoppers per square metre.

Keep in mind that not all grasshoppers are crop pests. The grasshopper survey is intended to consider annual species because they have a greater potential for rapid increase in populations. Grasshoppers that are already winged adults before June have coloured wings or make audible sounds are considered "non-pest" species. Many in this group usually take two-years to complete their life-cycle and do not tend to increase to economically damaging numbers.

The survey and risk map are intended to provide general information on risk levels. Actual levels of grasshopper infestations in individual fields may differ from those predicted in the 2013 forecast map.

Wheat and Barley establishment plans submitted

by Corey Ruud
Acting General Manager
Agri-Food Council

Two separate establishment plans have been submitted to the Minister of Agriculture for consideration. The plans are for the establishment of a wheat development commission and a barley development commission. The Minister has forwarded the plans, as per the defined regulatory process, to the Agri-Food Council (Council) for analysis and recommendation.

The proposed commissions will be funded by wheat and barley producers through a mandatory refundable levy. The levies will be deducted from producers' payment when producers market their wheat and barley crops. The proposed levy for wheat is $0.52/tonne and for barley the proposed levy is $0.50/tonne. Levy dollars will be used by the proposed commissions for the purposes of research, market development and promotional activities.

The Council's review process for establishment plans requires that producers/stakeholders have the opportunity to comment on proposed plans. Starting February 1, 2013, the establishment plans for both proposed commissions will be posted for 30 days on the Ministry of Agriculture's website, www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca, to allow producers/stakeholders to review the plans and provide comments.

Producers/stakeholders who wish to comment on the plans can forward comments by email to corey.ruud@gov.sk.ca or by regular mail to the Agri-Food Council, Room 302 - 3085 Albert Street, Regina, SK, S4S 0B1.

GENOMICALLY ENHANCED EPDS: IMPROVED ACCURACY

by Kim McLean, PhD, PAg
Regional Livestock Specialist, Tisdale
Regional Services Branch

Bull sale season is one of the most exciting times of the year. Looking at bulls for prospective herd sires provides a chance to see opportunity in future calf crops and adds value to the operation. However, producers may feel hesitant if they are not prepared for their purchase.

As a bull buyer, there are many tools available to you. From performance data to ultrasound measurements and expected progeny differences (EPD), there are many different numbers to look at. Some breeds plan to introduce genomically enhanced EPDs. All of this information can be very valuable to you as long as you are prepared with set goals.

Traditional EPDs are the product of complicated statistics based on pedigree and performance data for the animal. It is now possible to take genetic tests and work this information into the equations. By incorporating the animal's actual genetic information, the accuracy of EPDs increases.

One of the limitations to traditional EPDs has been accuracy of the numbers for young animals. The more offspring available for EPD calculations, the greater the accuracy. Young herd sires may only sire 10-20 calves a year. With limited progeny to perform the calculations with, they will have relatively low accuracies compared to that of a proven herd sire with many calves reported. Even mature cows will sometimes have low EPD accuracy due to small numbers of offspring to obtain data from. Using genomic information to enhance EPDs, increases the accuracies for both females and young sires.

When going through bull sale catalogues this spring, watch for enhanced EPDs. If you are selling bulls, this may be an opportunity to market your cattle differently. Using genomically enhanced EPDs gives bull buyers increased reliability for their future calf crops.

Many companies offer genomic testing. For more information talk to your breed association or phone your nearest Regional Livestock Specialist who can work with you to determine which test will be most effective for your needs.

Your nearest Regional Office can also offer assistance decoding bull sale catalogue numbers this winter.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact Kim McLean at (306) 878-8847;
- Phone the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377; or
- Visit www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca.

Genomically Enhanced EPDs can increase accuracy in young herd sires.

Commercial pasture blend evaluation

by Sarah Sommerfeld, PAg
Regional Forage Specialist, Outlook
Regional Services Branch

In 2009, the Irrigation Crop Diversification Corporation (ICDC) initiated a small-plot trial evaluating the performance of commercial and custom forage blends for intensive rotational grazing under high moisture or irrigated conditions. The objective of the project was to evaluate forage blends for overall yield, persistence and species composition under a simulated grazing situation and to monitor changes in these attributes over the course of the project.

Six perennial forage blends were established. Four blends were supplied by industry and were selected at the supplier's discretion. Two custom blends were developed at the request of the project leads. The selection process provided a combination of simple and complex pasture blends with varying composition for comparison.

Data collection began in May 2010 and consisted of quarter-metre square quadrat plot clippings to determine species composition and contribution for each blend. Along with the quadrat clipping, a total-plot mechanical harvest was taken four times, roughly 28 days apart, each year to determine overall dry matter (DM) yield. Grazing days per acre was then calculated for each forage blend based on total DM yield. Data collection was completed in August 2012.

Analysis of yield data from 2010 to 2012 shows that Custom Blend #2 had a significantly lower yield than the Northstar Custom Blend, Brett Young Super Pasture Blend and Pickseed Haygraze Blend. An explanation as to why the performance of Custom Blend #2 was significantly different from the three other noted blends may come from the observation that the cicer milkvetch component of the blend did not establish well and therefore did not significantly contribute to plot yield.

The influence of animal impact and grazing pressure are missing from this project; therefore, the results may not truly reflect the performance of these forage species when subjected to grazing. However, based on this project's results, the Northstar Custom Blend, Brett Young Super Pasture Blend or the Pickseed Haygraze Blend would be suitable blends for an intensive rotational grazing operation under high moisture or irrigated conditions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact Sarah Sommerfeld, Regional Forage Specialist, Outlook at (306) 867-5559; or
- Email sarah.sommerfeld@gov.sk.ca.

Table 1. Summary of pasture blend descriptions and composition

Species	Variety
Custom Blend #1	
Alfalfa	AC Grazeland BR
Meadow bromegrass	Fleet
Custom Blend #2	
Cicer milkvetch	Oxley II
Meadow bromegrass	Fleet
Brett-Young Super Pasture Blend	
Meadow bromegrass	Fleet
Crested wheatgrass	Fairway
Tall fescue	Kokanee
Alfalfa	Survivor
Pickseed HayGraze Blend	
Alfalfa	AC Grazeland Br
Meadow bromegrass	Fleet
Orchardgrass	OKAY
Northstar Custom Blend #1	
Meadow bromegrass	Fleet
Smooth bromegrass	Carlton
Tall fescue	Courtenay
Orchardgrass	Early Arctic
Alfalfa	Stealth
Proven-Viterra Ranchmaster	
Meadow bromegrass	hips brand
Intermediate wheatgrass	
Pubescent wheatgrass	
Tall fescue	hips brand
Alfalfa	Spredor

Table 2. 2010 – 2012 DM yield summary

Blend	2010 Total Yield (tonnes DM/acre)	2011 Total Yield (tonnes DM/acre)	2012 Total Yield (tonnes DM/acre)	Combined 2010-12 Mean Yield (tonnes DM/acre)
Custom Blend #1	4.9	3.8	4.1	11.8 ab
Northstar Custom Blend	4.6	4.8	4.9	13.3 a
Custom Blend #2	4.4	3.2	3.1	10.6 b
Brett Young Super Pasture Blend	4.6	4.8	3.6	13.1 a
Viterra Ranchmaster Blend	4.2	3.9	3.8	11.9 ab
Pickseed Haygraze Blend	4.9	3.9	4.0	12.9 a
Mean	4.45	4.06	3.76	12.27
CV (%)	17.41	14.09	11.19	9.99
LSD	1.17	0.86	0.63	1.85
p-value	0.5477	0.0065	0.0370	0.0524

DISPELLING MYTHS ABOUT BSE SURVEILLANCE IN CANADA

by Dr. Wendy Wilkins, DVM, PhD
Disease Surveillance Veterinarian
Livestock Branch

As a cattle producer, your participation in BSE surveillance contributes to industry prosperity and international market access. Many myths about BSE exist, which then reduce producer participation in BSE testing and hinder Canada's ability to demonstrate a low and declining level of BSE.

Below are some of the common myths:

Canada no longer has a BSE surveillance program.

Canada has, and will continue to have, BSE surveillance for the foreseeable future. BSE surveillance is needed so that Canada can export beef to other countries. Half of Canada's beef and cattle are exported; imagine what our beef industry would look like if this market closed.

I don't want to find BSE on my farm - my whole herd will be wiped out.

This is very unlikely. First, BSE is a rare occurrence. In fact, BSE has not been found in any Canadian cattle born after 2004.

Secondly, when BSE is found the only animals destroyed are those in the same birth cohort (born 12 months before and after the birth of the BSE-infected animal on the birth farm) and the same feed cohort (all cattle that may have consumed the same feed supplement as the BSE-infected animal during its first year of life). The majority of animals in a herd usually do not belong to the same birth or feed cohort as BSE-infected animals and are not destroyed.

Cull cows get a decent price at the market and it is difficult to find one to test.

It is true that you can get some money back on that old cow when you send her to auction. However, these are not the ones we want to sample. The BSE surveillance program targets the 4-D: dead, diseased, dying or downer animals. These are the animals that cannot be shipped for auction or slaughter, and either die or are euthanized on-farm.

In 2011, Saskatchewan had 1.3 million breeding animals; assuming a one per cent death loss, this means at least 13,000 of these animals die on-farm every year. While it may not be as easy to find animals to test as it was in the early days of BSE, there are still plenty of eligible animals out there.

Saskatchewan should be testing at least 7,400 animals each year. With more than 8,000 cattle producers, our requirements could be met if each producer tested one animal each year.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/BSE.

Using flax fibre to reinforce concrete

Flax is a major crop in Saskatchewan, but flax straw is essentially considered waste material. It has no value as livestock feed or bedding, and it does not decompose easily if left in the field. Flax producers typically dispose of flax straw by burning it, which has implications for the environment and public health and safety. Over the years, several attempts have been made in Saskatchewan to find uses and markets for flax straw, but they have all turned out to be impractical or economically unviable.

This may have changed, thanks to the work of researchers at the University of Saskatchewan and the financial support of the Agriculture Development Fund (ADF). The durability of flax straw, which has caused problems for flax producers, may be an asset for the concrete construction industry.

Fresh concrete has a tendency to shrink as it cures, particularly if it is being poured under hot, dry and windy conditions. This results in cracks in the concrete that can undermine the durability of the structure. Water can get into the cracks, causing damage when it expands and contracts as the water freezes and thaws. If the water is carrying other substances, such as de-icing salts, the damage can be even greater as the chemicals can attack the concrete itself and cause it to crumble and degrade. Pavement, bridge decks, airport runways and parking garage floors are particularly vulnerable to this due to their large surface areas.

The industry deals with this problem by adding a tiny amount (less than 0.5 per cent by volume) of short fibres to the concrete mixture. These fibres, typically made of a polymer or fibreglass, increase the tensile strength of the fresh concrete – reducing the number of cracks – and bridge the cracks that do form – reducing their width.

Previous research in Saskatchewan and elsewhere has suggested that natural fibres can be just as effective as synthetic fibres in reinforcing concrete. The purpose of this project was to determine if the eventual deterioration of the flax fibre had any long-term impact on the structural integrity of the concrete and whether anything could be done to improve the durability of the flax fibre in the concrete.

In the first series of tests, the researchers looked at the flax fibre itself and how it was affected by the highly alkaline environment of concrete. Raw fibre, as well as fibre that had undergone four different chemical preservative treatments, was immersed in a solution that mimicked the pH typically found in fresh concrete. At regular intervals over the next 112 days, the researchers measured the mass, colour, tensile strength and water retention of the five samples. They found that the fibres deteriorated at essentially the same rate regardless of whether they were raw or chemically treated.

In the second series of tests, the researchers looked at the durability of flax-fibre-reinforced concrete. Three different concrete samples – one reinforced with raw fibre and two reinforced with chemically or heat-treated fibre – were subjected to cycles of wetting and drying, and a second batch was subjected to cycles of freezing and thawing. The results of these tests showed that the decomposition of the fibres had no impact on the strength or flexibility of the concrete under either of the weathering scenarios.

This project shows that raw flax fibre is a technically feasible alternative to synthetic fibre as a concrete reinforcement. Before it can be adopted by the concrete industry, there needs to be follow-up market research to determine if it is economically viable to use flax fibre once the costs of collecting, processing, packaging and marketing are factored in.

The Agriculture Development Fund provides funding to institutions, companies and industry organizations to help them carry out research, development and value-added activities in the agriculture and agri-food sector. The results produce new knowledge, information and choices in technologies, techniques and varieties for farmers, ranchers, processors and input suppliers, to improve the competitiveness of Saskatchewan's agriculture sector.

In 2012, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture committed $11.8 million in new funding for 60 ADF research projects.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit the Saskatchewan Agriculture research reports page at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/ADFSearch and enter the report number #20080103 into the search function.

Adding flax fibre to strengthen concrete can extend the life of parking lots and runways, particularly in colder climates.

Promoting pulses and canola to the Indian market

by Leslie Geddie
Marketing Specialist
Policy Branch

Why is a chef from India standing in a field just outside Regina?

The Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture participated in an Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada project to bring India's popular TV chef, Vicky Ratnani, to Canada to produce a 10-episode Canadian culinary series. He is waiting for his cue during the filming of a popular cooking show for New Delhi Television (NDTV) titled "NDTV Good Times". As India's equivalent to The Learning Channel (TLC), they have a growing audience of 38 million viewers – that's more than Canada's total population.

After arriving in the Maritimes in late August, and traveling to nine Canadian regions, the crew wrapped up their filming in Saskatchewan in early October. They filmed at locations including Regina restaurant The Willow on Wascana, the RCMP Depot, the Etter farm at Richardson, The Berry Barn in Saskatoon and the Saskatoon Farmers' Market.

The goal of this project was to raise awareness of Saskatchewan's agri-food products in this market, in particular, pulses and canola. Indian food is well known for its use of pulses (peas, chickpeas and lentils) and Saskatchewan is India's top supplier of pulses, with exports of $560 million in 2011. With their growing middle class, they are looking for healthier cooking oils. Chef Vicky noted, "I use canola oil in my restaurant because of its neutral flavour, because of its high smoke point, and most importantly, because it's heart-healthy".

The 10-episode series is titled *Vicky Goes Foreign – Canada Tadka* (tadka is the Hindi word for seasoning and spices added to Indian dishes). The Saskatchewan episode airs on February 2, 2013 on the Rogers Cable Network – Channel 695 and can be streamed after February 6 from http://goodtimes.ndtv.com/index.aspx?vp=home.

FOR INFORMATION

- Contact Leslie Geddie at (306) 787-5966.

Chef Vicky walking in a harvested field near Richardson, SK.

CREATING AGRICULTURE AWARENESS THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA: YOUTUBE

by Shelley Jones
Ag Awareness Coordinator
Ministry of Agriculture

Social media and YouTube in particular have created a whole new community for people to go to for information and entertainment.

Shaun Haney, founder of realagriculture.com, is one of many believers that we, in agriculture, need to employ the use of social media to get our message out. "It (social media) plays a huge part because it is a direct way for farmers to connect with the mass population. Too many times in agriculture we talk to ourselves. Social media is a way for farmers to connect with the global community."

The agricultural industry needs to further utilize media like YouTube to tell their story, from farmers and ranchers, young and old, early adopters and laggards alike. Social media is one place where we can dispel myths, provide our side of the story, and set the record straight economically, quickly and to a large audience.

The agricultural industry is doing a great job of creating and posting videos that do just that. Whether it be the life science and biotech companies represented by CropLife, and their use of farmer, wife and mother Cherilyn Jolly-Nagel to tell the story of plant biotechnology and pesticide use, or the Peterson Brothers of Kansas and their popular song parodies, the YouTube medium is simple and immediate.

These videos go viral quickly in our own agricultural communities. Causes like Agriculture More Than Ever create another place for us to share our positive stories with each other. However, Haney says sharing these messages with folks outside of agriculture is easier said than done, "Videos like those produced by the Petersons are great examples of creating conversation about the farm in fun way," he observes, "and much more impactful than a video full of dry statistics." We just need to find a way to connect the information in a way that will resonate with those audiences.

What's your agriculture story? Why not tell it in a YouTube video? And, if you're a high school student considering post-secondary studies in agriculture, consider producing a three-minute creative video describing why agriculture, now more than ever, is a vibrant, diverse industry and submitting it for consideration in our Agriculture Student Scholarship Program.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact Shelley Jones at shelley.jones@gov.sk.ca or (306) 787-3121; or
- Visit www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Ag-Awareness-Summit.

Saskatchewan Agriculture Scholarship 2013

If you plan to take an agriculture-related post-secondary program in 2013, being awarded a Saskatchewan Agriculture Student Scholarship can help pay your tuition. Current Grade 12 students and recent graduates (within two years) of Saskatchewan high schools are eligible for one of 10 scholarships offered by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture. Each scholarship is valued at $1,000.

In order to qualify, you must be entering an agriculture-related post-secondary program in the fall of 2013. We also want you to showcase your knowledge and talent by crafting a well-researched 750-word essay or by creating a dynamic three-minute video which clearly describes why agriculture, today more than ever, is a vibrant, diverse industry.

All applications must be accompanied by at least one letter of reference from a leader within your community who can tell us why you make a good candidate for the Saskatchewan Agriculture Student Scholarship.

Applications must be submitted by March 1, 2013.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact your nearest Ministry of Agriculture Regional Office;
- Email the Ministry at agriculture.scholarships@gov.sk.ca; or
- Visit the Ministry of Agriculture website at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Scholarships.

SALUTE TO SASKATCHEWAN FARMERS AND RANCHERS

by Sara Shymko
Agriculture in the classroom

Many children are growing up today having very little contact with agriculture. Often children lack a basic understanding of where their food comes from and how it is produced. Many believe food simply comes from the store.

Staff from Agriculture in the Classroom, an organization dedicated to connecting kids to agriculture, regularly interacts with students throughout the province. Their experiences with students and teachers reinforce the reality that there is a growing knowledge gap between people who eat food and those who grow it. This is partly due to the lack of opportunities to meet farmers, face-to-face.

A century ago, more than half of Canada's population were farmers; today, it is only two per cent. At the same time, because of advances in technology, farmers are now producing more food, with fewer resources. These advances also further distance people from agriculture because farming is no longer practiced as people remember it.

Agriculture in the Classroom, in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, is working hard to educate youth about the importance of agriculture to our economy, culture, communities and future. In addition to many other agriculture outreach activities held this fall, elementary students were invited to recognize farmers and ranchers for the important work they do by creating thank-you cards. These cards are being distributed to farmers and ranchers across the province.

Agriculture in the Classroom welcomes the support of all interested producers to help with their agriculture education initiatives. From March 3 – 9, 2013, Agriculture in the Classroom will be encouraging schools across the province to participate in Canadian Agriculture Literacy Week. Many teachers are interested in inviting a producer into their classroom to share their experiences. We need to tell the positive story of agriculture and there is nobody better to talk to students than the people who live it.

If you are interested in volunteering to tell your story during Canadian Agriculture Literacy Week or in any other Agriculture in the Classroom initiative:

- Contact Sara Shymko, Executive Director at (306) 933-5224 or by email at sara@aitc.sk.ca; or
- Visit www.aitc.sk.ca.

Connecting children with agriculture helps them to understand where their food comes from.

AgriStability online

In March of 2012, the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) launched AgConnect, a secure online tool for reviewing and submitting AgriStability information. This was the first time Saskatchewan producers, along with their accountants or form preparers, could instantly view historical program information and submit program forms without having all the paperwork. By providing this option, producers now have more flexibility when working with the AgriStability Program.

The SCIC's introduction of a web-based application for AgriStability has been well received.

All program participants, along with their contacts (accountants and form preparers), were sent an initial letter outlining the steps to start using AgConnect. The letter included a code needed for activating the AgConnect account. Those who did not get their account activated, but are still interested in using the online tool, can still get started. The activation code contained in the letter will still work; however, if you can't find the letter call the AgriStability Call Centre at 1-866-270-8450.

Since the launch, SCIC has been receiving feedback from those using the site and have already implemented a number of the suggestions.

A few of the added features are:

- printable eForms;
- improved navigation features;
- increased options for submitting files; and
- a quick view showing what forms have been submitted and what fees have been paid.

AgConnect is one of the ways SCIC is working to provide enhanced service to the farmers and ranchers of the province. Staff are available at any of the 21 customer service offices to help with the AgriStability Program and they can give insight and advice to help with AgConnect.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit www.saskcropinsurance.com/agristability/agconnect.

DOWNLOAD SCIC DEADLINES TO YOUR SMARTPHONE

Managing a farm is a full-time job that doesn't fit into a nine-to-five work day. As a producer, you need access to information at any time to help you do your job. Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) continues its efforts to improve service to Saskatchewan farmers and ranchers. Using technology and online tools, SCIC hopes to expand our service offerings to work for your operation.

Now you can keep all of SCIC's important dates at your fingertips by downloading the deadlines to your computer or smartphone. Visit http://deadlines.saskcropinsurance.com to download a file with all of the SCIC deadlines.

When you download the file using your iPhone, iPad, Blackberry, Android device or personal computer (through Microsoft Outlook), all Crop Insurance and AgriStability deadlines will appear in your device's calendar. Step-by-step instructions to help with the download are available on the website.

You may also be interested in SCIC's eService Subscriptions. An eService is information that is delivered to your inbox regarding the Corporation and the programs it delivers. SCIC currently offers three subscriptions:

Cropping Up eNewsletter: The latest news and information about the Crop Insurance Program, generally published monthly between March and November.

Crop Insurance eDeadline: Crop Insurance deadlines are sent directly to your e-mail account reminding you of upcoming deadline information.

AgriStability Industry Advisory: The latest news and information about changes, enhancements and new features to the AgriStability Program.

SCIC works to provide only relevant program information through these services; subscribers will not receive a flood of advertising. Individuals may unsubscribe at any time if they choose.

Information about programs is also available on SCIC's website at www.saskcropinsurance.com. The website contains brochures and guides about Crop Insurance, AgriStability and the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program. Forms, maps, statistics and calculators, which can help make Crop Insurance selections or estimate potential AgriStability benefits, are all available online. The Saskatchewan Management Plus webpage provides the five-year provincial average by crop variety and average yield by risk zone, based on acres reported to SCIC. For personalized calculations or to report your operation's information, consider using CropConnect or AgConnect web portals.

SCIC continues to research new and innovative ways of providing information and customer service to farmers and ranchers. SCIC also continues to be available by phone or office visit, to speak with you about any questions you may have.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Contact your local Crop Insurance office;
- Call 1-888-935-0000; or
- Visit www.saskcropinsurance.com.

Global Institute for Food Security: Home-grown solutions

by Jonathan Tremblay
Communications Consultant
Communications Branch

Premier Brad Wall, along with President and CEO of Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan Inc. Bill Doyle, and President of the University of Saskatchewan, Dr. Ilene Busch-Vishniac, announced the creation of the Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS) in December. GIFS is an innovative partnership between the Province of Saskatchewan, the University of Saskatchewan and the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan.

GIFS will research agricultural solutions to growing world demand for safe, dependable, quality food. The Institute will be a source of innovation for the producers of Saskatchewan and a source of food solutions for the needs of a world population expected to reach nine billion by 2050.

With more than 40 per cent of Canada's arable land, a third of Canada's biotechnology industry and as a top world-producer of many crops, Saskatchewan is a natural fit for the Institute. This province is a leader in agricultural research and with Saskatchewan's current research infrastructure, GIFS will benefit from and contribute to a wealth of intellectual capacity to create a world-renowned institution.

With the announcement, the Premier said that GIFS fulfills Saskatchewan's "moral obligation as a good global citizen - while building the next economy, an innovation economy, here at home." The Institute will focus on crops grown in Saskatchewan and will use our resources and agricultural excellence to devise essential sources of food for a significant portion of the world's population. With GIFS, Saskatchewan will grow, while sharing our innovation in crops such as cereals, pulses, oilseeds and forages with relevant regions and partnerships around the world.

Strategic initiatives of the Institute will include breeding for higher yield, improved nutrition and better processing traits, looking at how soil quality affects the nutritional value of crops and adapting prairie zone crops to available soil and water.

INTERNATIONAL MARKET DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

by Stephen Norgate
Investment Attraction Specialist
Policy Branch

As part of the 2012-13 Provincial Agriculture budget, the Province announced one million dollars in funding for new international business development activities. The International Market Development Program (IMDP) provides support for the agriculture industry to establish, maintain and expand international market presence, increase the number and value of trade missions coming into Saskatchewan, and open, protect and expand market access for Saskatchewan.

The purpose of the program is to support marketing activities designed to attract new buyers and maintain existing markets in a highly competitive environment. Funding will be provided for new market development activities targeted at international markets. The program is open to Saskatchewan businesses, industry, organizations and agriculture shows. Approved applicants can receive funding for up to 50 per cent of eligible costs, to a maximum of $100,000 per applicant. Activities will be funded on a first-come, first-served basis. All projects must be pre-approved. Applications must be submitted by February 1, 2013 and projects must be complete by March 15, 2013.

Testimonials

"Gaining access to international markets is a key priority for Canadian Western Agribition. The Ministry of Agriculture's new IMDP has already helped Agribition open doors in Asia. On an annual basis, we host more than 800 international guests, and for the first time since BSE, we have interest from China to attend our show. This would not have been possible without IMDP or the Ministry of Agriculture's support on the ground." *Marty Seymour, CWA*

"IMDP has enabled the Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association to promote our products to an international audience. With the new marketing environment in Canada, there are additional opportunities for Saskatchewan producers to explore." *Levi Wood, WCWGA*

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- on this program, call (306) 787-8516 or email [redacted].

Youth Advisory Committee mission to Texas

by Meredyth McCreary
Trade Policy Analyst
Policy Branch

The Ministry of Agriculture's Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) participated in a mission to Texas during the first week of November 2012.

The YAC is comprised of young producers from different sectors of the industry: crops, cattle and mixed operations, who discuss and provide recommendations to the Ministry on youth attraction and retention and promote agriculture awareness. The overall goal of the mission to Texas was trade advocacy, which consists of several purposes:

- provide a learning opportunity for Saskatchewan producers through exposure to different production practices and technology;
- strengthen and promote Canada-U.S. partnerships in agriculture by advancing common understandings and dialogue between young Canadian and American producers;
- facilitate strategic partnerships between the Saskatchewan government and industry and harness the committee members' unique perspectives, resources and networks to advance provincial agricultural interests;
- establish and strengthen long-term relationships and cooperation with international government and industry stakeholders through formal and informal channels; and
- gain new insight and perspective on different agricultural issues and challenges through international information exchange and dialogue.

YAC met with representatives of the Texas Farm Bureau and its Ag Lead Program, consisting of young Texan producers from across the state. This forum also included a group of young producers from the California Farm Bureau. Each group exchanged presentations on their operations and the challenges faced in agriculture, creating a particularly unique forum for exchanging ideas and experiences. Other highlights of the experience included participation in a variety of tours, including:

- Texas A&M University's AgriLife Genomics and Bioformatics Center and School of Veterinary Medicine;
- Tonkaway Ranch, owned by Kyle Kacal, a newly-elected Texas state representative passionate about agriculture;
- Multiple operations specializing in sorghum, corn, wheat, cotton, hay, silage, milo and cattle;
- Cargill Meat Solutions Turkey processing plant in Waco, Texas;
- the Southwest Regional Dairy Centre, which had a state-of-the-art carousel milking system; and
- Superior Livestock Auction, considered the world's largest video auction for livestock.

The mission was an important learning opportunity, as YAC members observed an unique combination of Texas agricultural operations, drew connections with our own farming practices and identified similarities and differences with respect to crops, cattle, weather and harvesting methods. The mission also facilitated constructive and positive conversation among producers on topics such as: the lack or abundance of water for farming operations; geography and weather; land cost comparisons; regulations pertaining to land and water ownership; agricultural awareness and advocacy in communities and schools; genetically-modified crops; pesticide uses and how to discuss these issues with the public; and animal welfare. Promoting agricultural awareness was a common issue for each of the groups.

The mission allowed YAC members to observe first-hand the challenges producers face in Texas and California and to share their own. It also provided new ideas and encouragement for promoting agricultural awareness, improved knowledge of different production practices and new contacts and networks of like-minded producers in the U.S., our largest trading partner.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact Meredyth McCreary at (306) 787-0611 or by email at meredyth.mccreary@gov.sk.ca.

FUNCTIONAL FOODS AND PROCESSING FOODS FOR HEALTH

by Carmen Ly
Food Centre
and
Anula Perera
Food Centre

According to Global Industry Analysts Inc., the global market for functional foods and drinks is forecast to exceed $130 billion US by 2015. Saskatchewan's agricultural industry has huge potential for developing functional food products for both the domestic and global markets. Agricultural commodities such as grains, oilseeds, specialty crops, dairy, eggs and fruits can all play an important role in food development targeting the aging and health-conscious consumers.

As food processors, you have a significant role in improving the health of consumers, prevention and management of chronic diseases in the Canadian population. New food development or reformulation by incorporating the right ingredients for healthier foods is one of the first steps.

The Food Centre's upcoming seminar, "Functional Foods and Processing Foods for Health" is designed to provide a wealth of information to food processors, growers, R&D professionals, nutritionists, and health professionals to take that first step. Seminar topics will focus on:

- Ingredients to improve healthfulness of current products (omega-3 and omega-6 oils, antioxidant compounds, dietary fibre, soluble fibre, prebiotic products, phytosterols, etc.)
- Improved oils for food processing applications
- Solutions to reduce salt in foods
- Novel food applications for pulses
- Dairy and egg to improve healthfulness
- Marketing strategies for foods for health

This full-day seminar includes guest speakers from Saskatchewan and across Canada. Rising health issues in Canada is a significant reason, not only personally but business-wise to start thinking about the functional foods market and reformulating products to improve the health of your consumers.

Functional Foods and Processing Foods for Health Seminar
Tuesday, March 26, 2013
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saskatoon Inn, Saskatoon, SK
Early bird registration: $99.00/person (plus GST)
After February 28, 2013: $149/person (plus GST)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit www.foodcentre.sk.ca; or
- Call (306) 933-7555.

EVENTS CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	PHONE	INTERNET
January 31 - February 1, 2013	Young Agriculture Entrepreneurs Agriculture Conference and Tradeshow	Saskatoon, SK	306-874-2025	www.saskycanag.ca
February 4, 2013	Pulse Crop Workshop	North Battleford, SK	1-866-457-2377	www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca
February 5 - 6, 2013	Ag Awareness Summit	Regina, SK	1-866-457-2377	www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca
February 5, 2013	Pulse Crop Workshop	Kindersley, SK	1-866-457-2377	www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca
February 6, 2013	Pulse Crop Workshop	Swift Current, SK	1-866-457-2377	www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca
February 6, 2013	Succession Planning	Delisle, SK	1-866-457-2377	www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca
February 7, 2013	Pulse Crop Workshop	Moose Jaw, SK	1-866-457-2377	www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca
February 8, 2013	Pulse Crop Workshop	Weyburn, SK	1-866-457-2377	www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca
March 4 - 5, 2013	Livestock Emergency Response Course	Regina, SK	1-866-457-2377	www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca

Livestock Emergency Response Course March 4th and 5th, 2013, Evraz Place, Regina

Day 1:

The first day will be a classroom session covering topics such as animal behaviour and handling, responding to motor vehicle accidents involving livestock, rescue, fires, laws, incident command, injured animals and euthanasia.

Day 2:

The second day will be a practical session that includes setting the scene, live animal handling and capture, trailer design and extrication and euthanasia.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Contact Dr. LeeAnn Forsythe at (306) 787-6069 or email leeann.forsythe@gov.sk.ca.

Handling and penning livestock are some of the topics covered at this course.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUALS IN SASKATCHEWAN.

Saskatchewan's outstanding Young Farmers' Program

Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers' program is an annual competition to recognize farmers that exemplify excellence in their profession and promote the tremendous contribution of agriculture. Eligible nominees must be farm operators between the ages of 18 and 39 who make the majority of income from on-farm sources.

Saskatchewan's 2012 Outstanding Young Farmers were Sue Echlin and Vance Tester from Living Sky Winery in Perdue. The couple, dedicated to quality and local ingredients, takes the fruits grown on their farm and turns them into award winning wines.

Visit www.oyfcanada.com for a nomination form and deadlines.

For more information on the Saskatchewan Program, contact Art Pruim at (306)239-4263 or email ajpruim@sasktel.net.

National sponsors:

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